

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension or)	
)	ORDER OF
Revocation of the Educator Certificate of)	
)	REVOCATION
Molly S. Bruton)	
)	
Certificate 148171)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on February 14, 2007. On January 12, 2007, the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) served notice on Molly S. Bruton of her right to a hearing before the State Board concerning possible disciplinary action on her expired South Carolina educator certificate 148171. Ms. Bruton received the notice as evidenced by her signature on a Proof of Service form. Ms. Bruton did not request a hearing within the time frame specified in the notice letter. After considering the information presented, the State Board voted to order the revocation of Ms. Bruton's expired certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Molly S. Bruton holds a professional educator certificate that expired on June 31, 2006. She has twenty years of teaching experience and has been employed with the Horry County School District (District) since 1989, most recently assigned to the Academy of Arts, Science and Technology. The District terminated Ms. Bruton's employment on April 3, 2006, following allegations that she misused student activity funds and made false representations to the District concerning the funds in question. Ms. Bruton was indicted on a Breach of Trust criminal charge on May 25, 2006. The charge is still pending.

On June 9, 2004, the State Board issued an Order suspending Ms. Bruton's educator certificate until she repays the past due balance of \$300 on her outstanding National Board Certification loan. To date, Ms. Bruton has not repaid the amount due. Nevertheless, the District continued Ms. Bruton's employment through the date of her termination on April 3, 2006.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person. " S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58. Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, dishonesty and crimes against the law of this State. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). The State Board finds that the information presented supports its determination that just cause exists to revoke the certificate of Molly S. Bruton. Ms. Bruton will not be eligible to reapply for certification in the future until on or after February 13, 2010. Should Ms. Bruton wish to reapply for certification at that time, she must meet all current certification requirements.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ John E. Tindal
John E. Tindal, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
February 14, 2007